UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO DIVISION

)
) Case 09-29162-D-11
) Chapter 11)
)
INC.,) Case 09-29161-D-11
) Chapter 11

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Reporter's transcript of proceedings held at the United States Courthouse, Sacramento, California on THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009

Honorable Robert S. Bardwil, Presiding
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Reported by: Patricia A. Hernandez, CSR #6875

DIAMOND COURT REPORTERS

1	A	P P E A R A N C E S
2	_	
3	FOR THE TRUSTEE:	
	BRADLEY D. SHARP:	
4		KEVIN W. COLEMAN Attorneys at Law
5		SCHNADER, HARRISON SEGAL & LEWIS 1 Montgomery Street, Suite 2200
6		San Francisco, CA 94104-5501 (415) 364-6714
7		
8		
9	SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE:	RICHARD A. LAPPING
10	CHAFIER II INOSIEE.	JOHN D. FREDERICKS
11		MARCUS O. COLABIANCHI Attorneys at Law
12		Winston & Strawn, LLP 101 Calfornia Street
13		San Francisco, CA 94111-5894 (415) 591-1485
14		
15	FOR SSC FARMS, LLC;	
16	SSC FARMS ONE and SSC FARMS TWO:	DONALD PUTTERMAN
17		Attorney at Law KASOWITZ, BENSON TORRES & FRIEDMAN,
18		101 California Street, Suite 2050 San Francisco, CA 94111
		(415) 421-6140
19		
20		
21	FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED	
22	CREDITORS:	DALE GINTER Attorney at Law
23		Downey Brand 621 Capitol Mall, 18th Floor
24		Sacramento, CA 95814-4731 (916) 444-7000
25		(210) 444-1000

1	APP	EARANCES
2		
3		UL J. PASCUZZI
4	Fe	torney at Law lderstein, Fitzgerald,
5	40	lloughby & Pascuzzi 0 Capitol Mall, Suite 1450
6		cramento, CA 95814-4434 16) 329-7400
7		LCOLM S. SEGAL torney at Law
8	Se	gal & Kirby 0 L Street, Suite 1440
9	Sa	cramento, CA 95814 16) 441-0828
10	1	10) 441-0020
11		
12		
13	Or	torney at Law rick, Herring & Sutclisse 0 Capitol Mall, Suite 3000
14	Sa	cramento, CA 95814-4407 16) 447-9200
15	· ·	10) 447-9200
16		MES SPIOTTO
17	Ch	torney at Law apman & Cutler
18	Ch	1 West Monroe Street icago IL 60603-4080
19	1	12) 845-3763
20		
21		
22	At	LLIAM BATES torney at Law
23	19	NGHAM McCUTCHEN 00 University Avenue
24		st Palo Alto, CA 94303-2223 50) 849-4998
25		

[
1	A P F	PEARANCES
2		
3	FOR JP MORGAN CHASE EQUIPMENT FINANCE: BR	DENIT C CADDNED
4	At	ctorney at Law ewis & Roca
5	4 0	N. Central Avenue
6		502) 262-5739
7		
8		JLIE OELSNER Storney at Law
9	4 0	OO Capitol Mall, 11th Floor acramento, CA 95814
10		916) 558-6000
11		
12	FOR CAL-AP INTERNATIONAL, SELECT ONIONS, UESUGI	
13	· ·	
14	HIGUERAL PRODUCE AND RIVER POINT FARMS: MA	ARION I. QUESENBERY
15	Ry	torney at Law yan & Janowsky, LLP
16		.O. Box 20799 akland, CA 94620
17	· ·	510) 705-8894
18		
19	OPERATIONS: SA	AMUEL C. WISOTZKEY
20	Ko	ctorney at Law Chner, Mann & Kailas
21	Mi	550 N. Port Washington Road Llwaukee, WI 53212-1059
22		114) 962-5110
23		
24		
25		

1	7\ D	P E A R A N C E S
	— —	
2		
3	FOR OLAM WEST COAST & OLAM TOMATO PROCESSORS:	ALBERT J. BERRYMAN
4		Attorney at Law Baker, Manock & Jensen
5		5260 North Palm Avenue, 4th Floor
6		Fresno, CA 93704 (559) 432-5400
7		MARK GORDON
8		Attorney at Law McDonough, Holland & Allen
9		500 Capitol Mall, 18th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 444-3900
10		(310) 111 3300
11	FOR B & G FOODS, INC.:	ROBERT GEBHARD
12		Attorney at Law Sedgwick Law Corporation
13		One Market Plaza, 8th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105-1101
14		(415) 781-7800
15	FOR CAL. CHILI,	
16	CURRY FARMS and WINCHESTER FARMS:	EFFIE ANASTASSIOU
	willion in things.	PETER WILLIAMS (telephonically)
17		Attorneys at Law Anastassiou and Associates
18		P.O. Box 2210 Salinas, CA 93902
19		(831) 754-2501
20		
21	FOR VAN BROTHERS:	MEGAN A. LEWIS
22		Attorney at Law Wilke, Fleury, Hoffett, Gould &
23		400 Capitol Mall, 22nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
24		(916) 441-2430
25		

ı		
1	A E	PEARANCES
2		
3	FOR ODENBERG	DOMNA DADIZINGON
4	ENGINEERING:	DONNA PARKINSON Attorney at Law
5		Parkinson and Phinney 400 Capitol Mall, 11th Floor
6		Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 449-1444
7		
8	FOR WEST LAKE FARMS:	VINCENT ROLDAN Attorney at Law
9		DLA Piper, LLP 1251 Avenue of the Americas
10		New York, NY 10020-1104 (212) 335-4569
11		(212) 333-4309
12		
13	FOR R.F. MacDONALD:	MICHAEL McQUAID Attorney at Law
14		Carr McClellan Ingersol Thompson & 216 Park Road
15		Burlingame, CA 94010 (650) 342-9600
16		(000) 512 5000
17		
18	ALSO PRESENT:	BRADLEY D. SHARP, Trustee
19		GLEN CLARK, Managing Director
20		LESLIE NOLAN, Vice President Duff and Phelps
21		Dall and Incips
22		STEVEN SMITH Olam Food Processors
23		
24		STEVE PETERSON FRED ROBBINS
25		General Mills Representatives

1	00
2	THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009
3	PROCEEDINGS
4	00
5	THE COURT: All right. Good morning once again. This
6	is the 10:00 o'clock calendar. We have a number of things on
7	regards to RHM Industrial Specialty and SK Foods, LP. I will
8	take courtroom appearances first.
9	MR. COLEMAN: Good morning, your Honor. Kevin Coleman
LO	and Greg Nuti, Schnader, Harrison, Segal and Lewis, proposed
11	counsel to Bradley Sharp, the Chapter 11 Trustee. And Mr.
12	is present in the courtroom this morning.
13	MR. LAPPING: Good morning, your Honor. Richard
L 4	With me are John Fredericks and Marcus Colabianchi from
15	and Strawn, special counsel to the Chapter 11 trustee.
L 6	MR. GINTER: Good morning, your Honor. Dale Ginter of
L7	Downey Brand, LLP, proposed counsel for the Official
18	of Unsecured Creditors.
L 9	MR. PUTTERMAN: Good morning, your Honor. Donald
20	Putterman, Kasowitz, Benson, Torres and Friedman, LLP, for
21	Farms, LLC; SSC Farms One, LLC; and SSC Farms Two, LLC.
22	MR. PASCUZZI: Good morning, your Honor. Paul
23	Felderstein, Fitzerald, Willoughby and Pascuzzzi for Scott
24	Salyer.
25	Also in the courtroom is Malcolm Segal of Segal and

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also for Scott Salyer
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          MR. GARDNER: Brent Gardner, Lewis and Roca, on behalf
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   Chase Equipment Finance, Inc.
          MR. LEVINSON: Good morning, your Honor. Marc
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 5
   of Orrick, Herring and Sutclisse on behalf of Bank of
 6
   as agent for the secured lender group.
 7
          MR. SPIOTTO: Good morning, your Honor. James Spiotto
8
   from Chapman and Cutler on behalf of Bank of Montreal,
   the secured lenders.
10
          MR. WISOTZKEY: Good morning, your Honor.
11
   Wisotzkey of Kohner, Mann and Kailas in Milwaukee
12
   General Mills Operations.
13
          Also in the courtroom with me today are
14
   of General Mills, Steve Peterson and Fred Robbins.
15
          THE COURT: All right.
          MR. GEBHARD: Good morning, your Honor. Robert
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17
   of the Sedgwick Law Group here for B & G Foods, Inc.
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          MR. BERRYMAN: Good morning, your Honor. Albert
19
   Berryman, Baker, Manock and Jensen along with Mark Gordon of
20
   McDonough, Holland and Allen appearing for Olam West Coast,
21
   Incorporated, and Olam Tomato Processor, Incorporated.
22
          Mr. Stephen Smith from Olam is also present in the
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   courtroom.
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          THE COURT: All right.
          MR. QUESENBERY: Good morning, your Honor.
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- Quesenbery of Ryan and Janowsky for Cal-Ap International, Diamond Fruit, Gill Onions, Higueral Produce, River Point 2 Select Onion and Uesugi Farms, all pack and produce lien 3 4 creditors. 5 MR. BATES: Good morning, your Honor. Bill Bates, 6 Bingham McCutchen, for Nor-Cal Tomato Growers Association. 7 MS. ANASTASSIOU: Good morning, your Honor. Effie 8 Anastassiou on behalf of Cal. Chili, Curry Farms and Farms. We are all pack and produce lien creditors. 10 MS. LEWIS: Good morning, your Honor. Megan Lewis of 11 Wilkie, Fleury, Hoffelt, Gould and Birney representing Van 12 Brothers. 13 MS. PARKINSON: Good morning, your Honor. Donna 14 Parkinson, Parkinson Phinney, representing Odenberg 15 Inc., tomato sorters. MS. OELSNER: Good morning, your Honor. Julie Oelsner 16 17 from Weintraub, Genshlea and Chediak representing the Morning 18 Star Group. 19 THE COURT: Any other courtroom appearances? All 20 There are none. 21 I will take phone appearances. 22 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, your Honor. Peter
- of Anastassiou and Associates with counsel in the courtroom,
 Effice Anastassiou, representing Cal. Chili, Curry Farms and
 Winchester Farms.

MR. ROLDAN: Good morning, your Honor. Vincent Roldan 2 DLA Piper, counsel for West Lake Farms. 3 MR. McQUAID: Good morning, your Honor. Michael McQuaid, Carr, McClellan, Ingersol and Thompson representing 5 R.F. MacDonald Company, Inc., equipment leasor. 6 THE COURT: Are there any other phone appearances? 7 All right. Mr. Coleman, you may proceed. Thank you, your Honor. Well, we do have 8 MR. COLEMAN: number of things on the calendar. We had filed late last a proposed agenda for the hearing. I don't know if you had a 10 11 chance to take a look at that. 12 THE COURT: I did. 13 MR. COLEMAN: I was actually going to suggest that we 14 take what is on the agenda slightly out of order because I 15 that resolutions that we have been able to reach will 16 substantially narrow the matters that the Court will be 17 to address over the course of the hearing. 18 THE COURT: Before we do that let me just ask, 19 procedurally the initial motion to approve bidding procedures 2.0 and the order that resulted is motion control number RAL-212; 21 correct? 22 MR. COLEMAN: I believe so, yes, your Honor. 2.3 THE COURT: There were two subsequent motions filed in 24 the recent past, I believe around the 15th. One was a motion 25 approve a sale and the second was a motion to assume an

contract.

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A week ago or so the Court when it was dealing with housekeeping issues at the end of a hearing inquired as to the sale motion was necessary when I was of the opinion or at least the belief that the bidding procedures order really addressed the sale aspect, and the Court denied a motion or a request for an order shortening time on that specific motion. Do you recall?

MR. COLEMAN: Yes, I recall the discussion.

THE COURT: That is the motion that was the motion control number RAL-22 which appears to be on -- which appears be the motion control number under which the order was -- the sale order was proposed this morning. The debtor renewed its request for an order shortening time on motion control number RAL-23, and I did grant that order shortening time.

So my understanding of what is on calendar today is RAL-21 and RAL-23, and I still am not sure why RAL-23 is necessary in that the order that was issued under motion number RAL-21 outlined and specifies the procedures for and assigning a contract. I did look and tried to compare, the best I could conclude was that RAL-23 adds maybe a couple new contracts to the Exhibit A, and for that reason I granted the order shortening time with RAL-23.

Now, are you following me?

MR. COLEMAN: Yes.

1 THE COURT: So am I missing something, or today if the 2 Court issues an order approving the sale, it's under RAL-21? MR. COLEMAN: 3 If I can allow Mr. Lapping to respond. 4 MR. LAPPING: Yes, your Honor, that's fine. 5 THE COURT: All right. I just want to -- and 6 Mr. Lapping, RAL-23 which is the motion to assume and assign contracts, I'm summarizing that the reason that that was 8 as opposed to the stand-alone order on RAL-21 is because was a handful of contracts that were added to RAL-23? 10 MR. LAPPING: That's correct, your Honor. As we 11 proceeded we did add some, and that became one of the reasons 12 for the motion. 13 THE COURT: All right. I just wanted to 14 may proceed. 15 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you, your Honor. I guess what I 16 would like to take up first is a motion to approve the 17 post-compromise between the Trustee and to some extent other 18 parties and albeit SSC, all of the SSC farming entities with 19 regard to our disputes whether or not the waste water 20 agreements were properly terminated prior to bankruptcy. 21 THE COURT: I applaud the parties. I know that they 22 had a lengthy session and I know that they have been spending 2.3 lot of time preparing for the various activities in this case 24 and that they were successful in reaching a settlement that

mediated by Judge McManus. The question is what notice has

provided? 2 MR. COLEMAN: Well, we did serve notice last night 3 we filed the motion on the U.S. Trustees's office, the for the Creditors' Committee and attorneys for the bank 4 5 I will tell your Honor that given the shortness of 6 we have not had time to broadcast notice to all creditors as would be preferred in a circumstance like this but --7 8 THE COURT: What happens if I continue that hearing to Monday and notice goes -- I will comment that I issued an 10 limiting mailing, and one of the aspects that mailing is 11 for is 9019 compromises. So you would not have to -- I 12 would be the limited notice. What happens if we proceed with 13 the sale motion and I simply continue the hearing on the 14 compromise to Monday? 15 MR. COLEMAN: Well, I think the practical risk that we 16 face is that if we don't have an answer today, we have to 17 continue to, you know, prepare for the trial assuming that if 18 there is an objection and for some reason the Court does not 19 approve it. I guess --20 THE COURT: I can tell you it would take something 21 am not -- let me comment. I have reviewed the compromise. 22 understand the landscape of this case. I am very much 2.3 to approve the compromise. I just want to make sure T's are 24 crossed and the I's are dotted for appeal or any other 25 Is the trustee satisfied with the notice that has been

given for approval of the compromise? 2 MR. COLEMAN: Well, I guess to answer the question 3 directly, I think that the notice was as much as we could do under the circumstances. I would not characterize it as 5 THE COURT: Does that cause heartburn? I mean my 6 is I am wondering if just prudence doesn't dictate to the hearing on the compromise to Monday. Is there a reason 8 to? 9 MR. COLEMAN: Well, I guess what I would ask is if 10 address certain issues or certain aspects of the motion, give 11 parties an opportunity to address or raise any objections 12 they think that they might now get the Court's comments on 13 Then if we get through that, I would propose we do kick it 14 until Monday and we will get a fuller notice out and give one last chance to complain about it. But I guess what I 15 like to --16 17 THE COURT: You would like to have the Court address 18 today? 19 MR. COLEMAN: I would, because if we can -- if we at 20 least understand that we are not going to be dealing with the 21 objections of anybody who is in the courtroom today, that 22 allow us to move forward with a variety of other things. 2.3 THE COURT: All right. 24 MR. COLEMAN: And we did want to get -- there is a 25 change to the proposed compromise with the SSC entities,

would want to put that on the record today.

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MR. PASCUZZI: Your Honor, may I address? Paul your Honor.

The problem with your Honor approving the compromise today is that if -- without approval of the compromise, the entities and the Salyer objections to the sale are not So I understand the Court's concern about timing and we are not prepared to go forward.

THE COURT: Mr. Pascuzzi, let me ask you this: I'm presented with a conundrum or dilemna. If notice -- if I ruling, and I am fully aware that I can approve the and it is my inclination that that's what I am going to do; if notice is inadequate, who is that going to come back to on its appeal?

MR. PASCUZZI: Well, I understand, your Honor. You it's kind of an issue with sales and that we view this as and parcel of your approval of the sale. So certainly some risks but there are also some protections to parties sale that has been approved and to compromise in connection the sale, and I would argue, your Honor, that all of these issues have been T'ed up and that really in sum we are our objection to the sale. So in connection with the sale hearing, that is what we are doing.

Now, certainly out of an abundance of caution and to make sure that notice is the best as possible we T'ed it

as a 9019 motion, but I think that the Court can approve the settlement today as a resolution of the objection to the sale 2 and move forward with the sale today, which as you understand 3 course is very important. 4 5 THE COURT: All right. MR. PUTTERMAN: Donald Putterman for the SSC entities. 6 7 Beyond endorsing what Mr. Pascuzzi had to say, your 8 Honor, the settlement as modified yesterday which was by Mr. Coleman, if anything is more favorable to the 10 We were willing to gor -- we were willing to go along with 11 because we think that it is extremely important to resolve 12 get the sale done and keep the plant operating in time for 13 pack for the sake of the growers and the employees, and I 14 urge your Honor to move forward and approve it today. 15 MR. GINTER: Good morning. Dale Ginter on behalf of Committee. 16 17 I appreciate the conundrum the Court is in with the 18 This has been a very difficult deal to bring the 19 parties together and more importantly perhaps to hold them 20 together, and I think that on balancing the risk the 21 would be in favor of your Honor going forward today. 22 THE COURT: All right. Let me ask, is there anyone in 23 the courtroom that opposes the compromise? 24 Well, before I do that, you say that there has been a

modification to the compromise?

MR. COLEMAN: Yes, your Honor. I can describe what -- I can describe the original proposal and then the that was necessary.

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Essentially under the agreement that was reached two days ago with Judge McManus the Trustee agreed to pay a sum equal to two years worth of the fees due under the relevant discharge agreements at the time of closing, plus a cure -amount required to cure defaults. We estimate the aggregate amount of that money to be something like 1.3 million That money would be paid to the SSC entities, the counter parties to those agreements. It would be completely from any later claims that may be asserted by the Trustee, Creditors Committee subsequently and the Trustee and the So the idea being that money was just hands-off completely any claims by the estate because, as I believe you recall, we have a pending complaint seeking substantive consolidation of the assets of these entities and the estate. So that was one provision of the agreement.

The second was a condition to the SSC entities obligation to go forward under the agreement was that the Trustee obtain the agreement of the successful bidder at our auction to purchase approximately 4 million dollars worth of tomatoes that are being grown by the SSC entities and other Salyer related -- the farming entity as we call it. We were unable to -- well, excuse me. As with the -- or somewhat as

with the money that would be paid on account of the discharge 2 agreements, any money that was paid to the farming entities 3 under the tomato contracts would be free and clear of any by, in this instance, the Trustee, any subsequently appointed 4 5 trustee, the Creditor Committee and the estate. Not 6 any claims by the banks. 7 The last feature of the agreement was that the 8 would make his best efforts to obtain an agreement with the successful purchaser of the assets to enter into an agreement 10 with another company called West Lake, West Lake Farms, I 11 believe, to do the harvesting. 12 THE COURT: Right. 13 MR. COLEMAN: And then in exchange for all of that, 14 discharge agreements would be modified to a two-year term 15 one-year option to extend. We would have the ability to --16 ---000---17 [Discussion off the record.] 18 ---000---19 MR. COLEMAN: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. Then the executory 2.0 contracts would be -- they would be deemed executory 21 They would be modified. We could assume them. 22 THE COURT: Correct. 2.3 MR. COLEMAN: Then the final feature of this was that 24 Mr. Salyer's daughters and their trust would be dismissed

without prejudice from our supplement consolidation action.

We attempted over the course of yesterday to try to secure the agreement of Olam or the successful bidder to purchase the tomatoes. It was not possible to reach the under which they were willing to do that, so we were facing a situation of not being able to perform an essential condition what had been the agreement prepared on Tuesday. Since that time we have had further discussions with the SSC entities, they have agreed to modify the arrangements so that the is only required to make his best efforts to secure the the tomatoes.

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And then in exchange for that, if he is successful in getting a deal on the harvesting side of this, any funds that get paid through, well, loosely described as the Salyer would be free and clear.

THE COURT: Enjoy the same protection?

MR. COLEMAN: Enjoy the same protections, yes. Not protections from any claims by the banks but the more limited protection that had been afforded to the tomato money.

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors has negotiated for a provision that would cap the aggregate of I guess what I will call the insulated money to \$5.3 So I mean we believe that on balance the proposal is fair and equitable; that, you know, as modified it certainly would the standards of the ANC case.

So I guess I would ask -- before I go into that, I

would I ask for counsel of the SSC entities and Mr. Salyer if 2 they would conform their agreement to these terms? 3 MR. PUTTERMAN: One slight correction. I believe, Honor, that the cap on the aggregate insulated money is 4 5 the aggregate of the tomato and the harvest, the tomato and 6 harvest money. The cap does not apply to the waste water 7 contract money. With that correction, your Honor, as I indicated a 8 few minutes ago, we gave up a -- I'm sorry. 10 ---000---11 [Discussion off the record.] 12 ---000---13 Mr. Pascuzzi has just corrected me. MR. PUTTERMAN: 14 think the cap is to everything, including everything. 15 MR. GINTER: That's correct. 16 MR. PUTTERMAN: Okay. My apologies, your Honor. 17 have been done a little bit rushed this morning. 18 We gave up a considerable benefit in the settlement 19 had been negotiated on Tuesday before Judge McManus, and that 20 was basically the certainty of having a home for a very 21 substantial tomato crop. Nonetheless, balancing all of the 22 considerations, and again particularly bearing in mind the 23 employees of the debtors, many of whom have worked for many 24 years, and the growers who have had long-time 25 felt we had confidence in the Trustee's agreement to use his

best efforts, and we felt that under the circumstances this 2 the appropriate thing to do, and we do fully support the 3 settlement. 4 THE COURT: All right. 5 MR. PASCUZZI: Paul Pascuzzi, your Honor. 6 One other benefit to the estate that is described in papers and isn't a change or anything from what was in the 8 motion is that the estate or the parties to the substantive consolidation proceeding waive any Rule 11 claim for the 10 of the daughters and their trusts in the adversary 11 and that is just for --12 THE COURT: But that was part of the initial 13 MR. PASCUZZI: It was part of the initial settlement. 14 want to make sure as we were describing it, and we are in 15 agreement, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Let me ask: Is anyone opposing the 17 settlement as modified in court this morning? I will take 18 courtroom appearances first. All right. No one in the 19 courtroom opposes the compromise as modified in the 20 Is there anyone on the phone making a phone 21 that opposes the compromise in essence which allows the 22 go forward, that opposes the compromise as modified in court 23 today? 24 MR. ROLDAN: Your Honor, this is Vincent Roldan,

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to West Lake Farms.

We are opposed to settlement at this point. For the record, West Lake reserves its right. I didn't receive -- I didn't receive the motion until -- the e-mailing receipt just came in just a few moments ago. It sounds as though on the record that the settlement does not affect the assumption contracts, the assumption of the West Lake contracts to a successful bidder Olam, and if I could just ask the Trustee counsel to Olam to make that clarification that West Lake's contracts are not impaired by the settlement with the Salyer entities, then I think we are okay.

MR. COLEMAN: Your Honor, yes, I can confirm that in the proposed settlement with the SSC entities would in any way affect West Lake's rights.

THE COURT: All right.

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MR. GINTER: Your Honor, if I might be heard a moment. Could I request a brief recess while I go and attempt to with my Committee? We learned of this change at about 10:00 this morning, and I'm getting conflicting votes from my Committee on this issue. I don't presently have the to agree to the deal that was just put on the record.

MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, Albert Berryman for Olam.

I believe there was a question that West Lake's addressed for Olam to comment on, and we understand the that Trustee's counsel has represented, that there will be no effect on the West Lake tomato contracts.

	THE COURT: I looked at the settlement terms this
2	and I did not see that it had any bearing on any other
3	contracts other than the contracts, the purported contracts
4	exist or don't exist between or among the parties now.
5	I will take a short recess, but I think that that is
6	something that needs to be figured out very quickly.
7	MR. GINTER: Understood, your Honor.
8	THE COURT: I will resume how long do you need?
9	MR. GINTER: Could we do fifteen minutes, your Honor?
10	THE COURT: All right. I will resume at 11:15.
11	MR. COLEMAN: Thank you, your Honor.
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13	[Brief recess.]
14	000
15	THE COURT: Good morning once again and please be
16	All right. Before we proceed I am going to implement a
17	make this proceeding go hopefully more smoothly. Everyone is
18	instructed to turn off their cell phones.
19	000
20	[Discussion off the record.]
21	000
22	THE COURT: All right. Mr. Coleman.
23	MR. COLEMAN: Your Honor, thank you for allowing us to
24	take a break. I think it was time well spent. The ten or
25	fifteen minutes we were out in the hallway I think saved us

hours of proceedings before you and other things.

My understanding, and I'll ask Mr. Ginter to confirm,

is that the Creditors Committee is now fully supportive of

today.

MR. GINTER: Yes, your Honor, the Trustee and I were to speak with the Committee Chairman, and the Committee is on board.

the agreement with the SSC entities as modified on the record

THE COURT: All right. I believe where we had left then, I had polled those inside the courtroom and there was objection to the compromise as proposed.

I polled those on the telephone, and I think we had West Lake I believe it was. The creditor just wanted confirmation that it didn't alter their contract rights one or the other.

Is there anyone on the phone that wishes to be heard objects to the proposed compromise as modified? All right. There is no one.

All right. Mr. Coleman.

MR. COLEMAN: I guess, your Honor, I would ask that in light of the fact that most of the interested parties in this case are actually in the courtroom today, that you would the compromise so that we can proceed with the other matters.

THE COURT: With the parties understanding that risk, I have given it thought and I have looked at the

compromise, I have considered the modifications and I am prepared to go ahead and approve the compromise today.

With that, let me just -- what I anticipate doing is the sale motion is approved today, I will put certain on the record in regards to the exigent circumstances and urgentness to have the debtor sell the assets, and this compromise is a component that without the compromise the would not go forward today and may not be able to go all. With the compromise which has been negotiated among the Trustee, Mr. Salyer, some related entities, the Creditors Committee and with the bank, the major secured lender, notice has been short but there has been notice. Most of the major players are in court today or on the phone. Nobody opposes compromise.

Under these circumstances I am prepared to make findings that, you know, in considering the likelihood of success on the merits, the litigation involved and the amount interest of the creditors, that it is appropriate to compromise today.

I will comment, I think it's something of a gray area.

Mr. Pascuzzi indicated that, in essence, it's the horse

that takes place on the sales motion, and I don't know if it

needs to be approved as a compromise but for precautionary

reasons I will, though, approve the compromise. Really it

seemed to me a majority of the actual concessions were in

agreement that, in fact, the underlying contracts are in nature and may be assumed, quantifying the cure things along those lines which often take place in the of a sale and contract assignment motion.

But notwithstanding, under the circumstances of

But notwithstanding, under the circumstances of this case I am prepared to go ahead and approve the compromise.

I would suggest two things before I leave this issue. Mr. Coleman, if your office would submit an order shortening time allowing for hearing of the compromise motion today at 10:00 o'clock consistent with the service that your office affectuated or whomever it is yesterday afternoon or evening, submit an order shortening time on that motion so that at we have that procedural issue tied up.

MR. COLEMAN: Would you like a motion along with just submit the order?

THE COURT: Well, did you not -- I thought a motion filed today? I looked at this document. I thought that I it was either a notice of the settlement or a motion to the settlement. There was a motion filed --

MR. COLEMAN: There was a motion filed today.

THE COURT: You may submit an order shortening time on that motion as requested in open court today. So you don't to do an application, just recite the request for the order shortening time in open court, under the circumstances it was granted, and the notice can be consistent with the notice of

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the --
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          MR. COLEMAN: We'll do that, your Honor. And then I
 3
   have -- I think we can upload --
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          THE COURT: On the order approving the settlement, who
   it that is going to sign off on the form of that order?
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 6
          MR. PASCUZZI: Your Honor, this is Paul Pascuzzi.
 7
          I think we should as well as Mr. Putterman for the
   SSC entities.
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 9
          MR. COLEMAN: I think we also would need the Creditor
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   Committee's counsel's signature.
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          MR. GINTER: Yes.
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          MR. COLEMAN: And the attorney for the bank group, the
13
   agent for the bank group.
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          THE COURT: All right. You may submit an appropriate
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   order with those signatures.
          MR. PASCUZZI: Your Honor, one more thing in
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17
   with the settlement consistent with your Honor's statement
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   comments as to the urgency of that matter to the extent that
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   6004(h) or even 4001(a)23 with the ten-day stay, we ask that
2.0
   the Court waive those to the extent they're applicable. Also
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   number 3.
22
          THE COURT: Under the circumstances I'm prepared to go
23
   ahead, and you may insert that in the order.
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          MR. PASCUZZI: Thank you, your Honor.
25
          MR. COLEMAN:
                        Okay. I think that makes many other
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on the agenda a little easier. 2 I quess what I would turn to is items or item 4 on the agenda which is our -- well, which is Mr. Salyer's motion for 3 protective order and our counter motion to compel his 4 5 at a deposition. I think that the resolution of the 6 mutes that motion. 7 THE COURT: So calendar item number 2-RHM, that is a 8 motion for protective order, and the companion motion in the SK Foods is calendar item 5. Are those motions going to be withdrawn or are they going to be denied? 10 11 MR. PASCUZZI: Your Honor, to the extent they are 12 withdrawing their request to depose Mr. Salyer because that 13 in connection with the litigation over the discharge 14 that has now been settled, there is no needed for a 15 order. So as long as they are withdrawing their deposition 16 request, we can drop the motion. 17 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, your Honor, in light of the 18 of the settlement there is no need to go forward with the 19 deposition. 20 THE COURT: So Mr. Pascuzzi, it is your motion. Is 21 motion being withdrawn by the moving party? 22 MR. PASCUZZI: Yes, your Honor. THE COURT: So calendar item number 2 and calendar 2.3 24 number 5, those motions are withdrawn by the moving party. 25 On the motion to approve the compromise, I'm assuming

that with the compromise the parties will also submit a 2 stipulation for dismissal of what I have turned into as an 3 adversary proceeding? 4 MR. COLEMAN: We will also do that, your Honor. 5 THE COURT: All right. 6 MR. COLEMAN: Okay. With that, I guess I would turn podium over to Mr. Lapping who will address the motion to 8 approve the sale and the companion motion with respect to executory contracts. 10 MR. LAPPING: Good morning, your Honor. Obviously we 11 have good news. We do have a sale to approve. I believe I 12 going to walk through this and try to take both motions at 13 same time since they are very inter related. I'm going to 14 about APA that we filed with the exhibits and how that 15 from various other things, our report on the auction and our 16 conclusion of identifying the successful bidder. 17 I will walk through the various objections, and then 18 will need you to determine whether there are any that are unresolved that need to be addressed. 19 20 We will talk about some various technical 21 adjustments that affect the scope of assumption assignment of 22 various documents. We will talk about the due diligence that 2.3 was done, and we would like to proceed, if possible, by an 24 of proof but I'll explain that when we get there.

Then finally we have submitted -- I know that a red

of the proposed orders for the assumption and for the can walk through those because obviously those terms I assume your Honor will have some questions about, and we can offer explanations, hopefully.

2.0

When we filed the asset purchase agreement, which was negotiated at great effort, we included some exhibits, and that I guess I want to focus on is Exhibit 1.5 and Exhibit wherein the number of executory contracts and leases that identified as being assumed by the buyer, Olam West Coast, and actually its designee just for the record is Olam Tomato Processors, Inc., will be the ultimate purchaser. In that process we did reduce the number of contracts from the cure which was very long. Now we have a shorter list, and it may have gotten even shorter to some extent.

Then we also discovered in the technical side some contracts that we need to assume, and we will describe to Honor the stipulations we have with respect to that.

We held the auction yesterday. It commenced at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of Winston and Strawn in San Francisco. We only had one qualified bidder at that second qualified or second bidder who initially qualified was not able to obtain all of the qualifications and particularly the funding for its operation post closing.

At the auction which because of the negotiations that your Honor heard about earlier between, you know, in an

to add the Salyer settlement to and draft it on to the 2 purchase agreement, it actually was not concluded until 7:15 3 in the evening, at which point we went on the record and with no other bidders determined that our stocking horse bidder 5 Olam was going to, in fact, be the winning bidder at 39 6 dollars as described in detail in the asset purchase 7 So we have a number of objections. If I may, I would 8 like to walk through those basically in the order that they appear on the docket. 10 Docket number 223 is an objection by Ed Curry, dba 11 Farms, based on the cure amount. And the resolution of 12 that this particular contract will not be assumed. 13 is possible that it will be treated separately under our PACA 14 The banks have set up a fund to pay qualified PACA 15 after we do the final due diligence on their qualifications. 16 while it's not necessarily the case, we do have a fund for 17 But in the event that -- you know, to the extent that Curry 18 objected to the assumption of its contract, the answer is we 19 are -- it will not be assumed. 20 THE COURT: Okay. 21 MR. LAPPING: The next docket number 261 is Salinas 22 Valley Memorial Valley Systems. Again, this was an objection 23 based on the cure amount, and again this lease, which is a 24 of an office building, will not be assumed.

Number 267, West Lake Farms, Inc. West Lake's

is being assumed. However, as noted on page 3 line 23 of the 2 objection, there is no amount presently owing. The amount 3 was proposed is an amount that would essentially have been if we had rejected the contract and represents the estimated 4 5 value of tomatoes going forward. With the assumption of this 6 contract, those tomatoes will be paid for. I believe that 7 agreed price -- and I will pause because I know West Lake's 8 attorney is on the phone. 9 MR. ROLDAN: That's correct, your Honor. I understand 10 that West Lake's contracts are being assumed, and I did 11 It appears all the liabilities under the contracts are 12 being assumed, including the payments of the tomatoes, so it 13 appears that our objection has been addressed. 14 THE COURT: Those on the phone, you will need to 15 yourselves. Mr. Roldan, go ahead and just state your name. 16 MR. ROLDAN: Yes, your Honor. I apologize for not 17 identifying myself. Vince Roldan, counsel to West Lake 18 and I just spoke. 19 MR. LAPPING: Item or rather docket number 271 through 20 273 was an objection from B & G Foods, Inc. Again, the 21 resolution for that one is that we will not be assuming that 22 contract. I believe counsel for B & G is present today. 2.3 MR. GEBHARD: Yes, your Honor, that is me. 24 MR. LAPPING: That was Mr. Gebhardt. 25 And item 284, the Bank of Montreal filed a protective

objection in the event that things went arye. They have not, I believe that objection has been resolved. 2 Yes, your Honor. 3 MR. SPIOTTO: 4 MR. LAPPING: That was Mr. Spiotto. 5 The Odenberg Engineering contract is being assumed. 6 is item -- or rather docket number 288 through 290. I 7 that resolves the objection. Counsel for Odenberg is 8 MS. PARKINSON: That's correct. 9 MR. LAPPING: We had a lengthy objection from Kraft 10 Foods, pleadings number 292 through 294 and 296 through 298. 11 Here again the resolution of that is that the contract will 12 be assumed. I don't believe the counsel for Kraft is 13 but we are not assuming the contracts. So the objection I 14 is rendered mute. 15 Item or docket number 300 through 301 is an objection 16 General Mills. Counsel for General Mills is present. This 17 was a fairly involved compromise. As part of the assumption 18 essentially we agreed to a cure amount that was acceptable to 19 General Mills. We agreed with them that their equipment that 20 was owned by General Mills and is present as part of the 21 Williams plant in particular and possibly -- I don't think 22 had any in Lemoore but certainly in one of the plants that 23 asserted an ownership right, we conceded that, in fact, it's 24 true, they own the equipment. It's not being sold, it is

being -- their contract will be assumed, in particular one of

their three contracts. They identified several, but the one 2 that is really the operating one is from 2003 forward, and we 3 have a detailed explanation of how that works in the proposed order for the assumption and cure of the contracts, the 4 5 assignment. But esssentially that is the nub of it, that it 6 will be assumed, and they have agreed to reduced cure order to enable us to do that and finance and get all of 8 parties to move in cohesion. 9 THE COURT: Very well. 10 MR. WISOTZKEY: Your Honor, Sam Wisotzkey on behalf of 11 General Mills. 12 I reviewed the red lines to the assignment order last 13 night, and that appears to accurately reflect the agreement 14 we reached with the Trustee. 15 THE COURT: Very well. 16 MR. LAPPING: Next we have a series of claims by 17 of Marion Quesenbery. They are number 303. I believe they 18 your clients, Diamond Fruit, number 304, Gill Onions, number 305, Select Onions, number 306, River Point Farms and number 19 20 308, Higueral Produce. Again, these were all objections 21 on cure amounts. They are potentially within the PACA funds 22 subject to due diligence. The contracts will not be assumed,

MR. QUESENBERY: Yes, unfortunately it does, your We hope to reach new agreements with Olam, but thank you.

and we believe that resolves those objections.

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24

THE COURT: Very well.

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MR. LAPPING: The next objection that we received is Chase Equipment Finance, Inc., numbers 309 and 310. This one was concluded by moving the -- essentially Chase had a combination of leases and secured financing and it related to equipment mostly in Williams but some in Lemoore, I believe. The resolution of that was to -- on Exhibit 1.6 there is a reflection of an amount that will be paid to Chase as part of the proceeds to essentially cure defaults under the leases essentially pay them off for the value of their equipment. I believe counsel for Chase is present.

MR. GARDNER: Your Honor, Brent Gardner on behalf of Chase Equipment Finance, Inc.

We have reached an agreement. I haven't seen all of signatures on that agreement but I understand that it's been signed on by the Trustee and by the agent for the secured lenders. We have also signed that. The agreement that there will be approval of the sale and that the sale close.

Now, it's a cart and horse problem that we have here unlike the situation that we had with the executory contracts wherein the -- if those anticipated things don't occur, if sale doesn't close, then we need to be able to reserve our objections. So provided -- provided those things do happen, then we have reached an agreement that the parties have

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to.
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          THE COURT:
                      All right. I was assuming that any
   modification to an agreement is premised on the closing of
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 4
   sales transaction.
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          MR. LAPPING:
                        That is the understanding, your Honor.
 6
          MR. GARDNER:
                        That is certainly the case with ours.
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          MR. LAPPING: I am going to take one out of order,
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   Honor, because it actually wasn't filed but there was a
   reference to it earlier, and it relates to Exhibit 1.6.
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   approached by R.F. MacDonald, and I believe their attorney is
11
   the phone, about an assumption or cure of their lease.
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   unclear. We viewed it as a financing, not an actual
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   we reached an agreement to pay $196,135 which was a final
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   payment, and I believe that is reflected on Exhibit 1.6.
15
   believe their counsel is on the phone.
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          THE COURT: All right.
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          MR. McQUAID:
                       Yes, your Honor. Michael McQuaid for
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   R.F. MacDonald.
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          That is my understanding that we reached a stipulation
2.0
   that R.F. MacDonald will be paid $196,135 on or before
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          THE COURT: All right.
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          MR. LAPPING:
                        Going back to the docket order, we
2.3
          MR. GARDNER:
                        Excuse me.
                                    May I?
                                             I'm sorry to
24
   your Honor. I just wanted to point out on the Chase
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   one of the things that it is subject to is Court approval of
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that agreement. We all contemplate that we will be the Court some formalized motion to approve that agreement. 2 3 THE COURT: Well, let me ask. I was contemplating it would be embodied in the sale order. I mean I am not --4 5 we looking -- I mean my understanding is that this needs to 6 close by the end of the month. So if that is the case, you 7 not contemplating filing a new motion or is it a stipulation? 8 MR. GARDNER: It's not something that we have really addressed, but I'm certain that it can be done to coincide 10 the --11 THE COURT: I'll leave the parties to their own 12 on this but, you know, I guess what I am -- just off the 13 my head, we are not seeing that it would be something such as 14 motion we would have to set for a hearing, just a stipulation embroiled in the sale order that I would receive is fine. 15 16 MR. GARDNER: Your Honor, there is an agreement that 17 been signed by Chase and by the Trustee and by the agent 18 secured banks. 19 MR. SPIOTTO: And I think it recognizes, as your Honor 20 mentioned, that it is all subject to the transaction closing. 21 We can attach that to the sales order if that is acceptable 22 just, you know, indicate in the order, put a paragraph in 23 your Honor has approved. 24 THE COURT: Very well. 25 MR. SPIOTTO: Thank you, your Honor. That will work.

1 MR. LAPPING: Let's see. On docket -- Richard Lapping 2 again. 3 On docket numbers 332 through 334 we had an objection 4 from ConArga Foods. We corresponded with them as well and 5 stipulated that we would not assume their contract, and therefore their objection is muted. 6 The last three objections that we had based on the 7 amounts were from Scott Salyer, item or docket number 337, 8 Farming, et al, 339 and 338, I believe, and I believe those 10 objections are resolved by the current settlement. 11 ---000---12 [Discussion off the record.] 13 ---000---14 MR. LAPPING: They are not. They are actually not 15 entirely resolved. I think I'll let Mr. Pascuzzi address 16 this. 17 MR. PASCUZZI; Your Honor, there are just some minor points and I think they are really drafted of the APA. 18 19 fixed assets schedule there are some vehicles, eight 2.0 cars and some bins, 10,000 wooden bins that we contend are 21 property of the debtors. I believe the cars have been 22 and I believe the bins have been removed, so it's a matter of 2.3 just verifying the eight trucks. 24 Counsel has represented to me that they are not trying

sell anything that the debtors don't own, and that they will

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look into it and get it resolved. I am comfortable with your Honor, and if we have an issue, we will be back before Court.

2.3

The other issue has to do with how the discharge agreements are dealt with in the asset purchase agreement.

THE COURT: Discharge agreements? You mean the contracts?

MR. PASCUZZI: The discharge contracts that we have compromised, any issues about whether they were terminated. There should be -- the way the asset purchase agreement is structured is they are subcontracting the rights to Olam those discharge agreements. There should be three because there are three discharge agreements, and counsel has acknowledged that that is correct.

I have an issue with one of the terms in the regarding use, not purporting to restrict the owner's of the property's use, only Olam's use. That I believe will be able get resolved as well.

Then Section 1.10 of the asset purchase agreement about the waste discharge property, and there are some issues about whether that is an overly-broad description of the property that is subject to the discharge agreements, but I spoken to counsel about it and I am confident we will get resolved with some drafting or some provisions in the order. I believe we will get those resolved, your Honor.

1 I'm prepared to step down and let things move forward. just ask that I sign off on the order so that we make sure we 3 get it done. MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, addressing these in order --5 well, let me do them in reverse. 6 I think counsel pointed out to me what I understand to a meets and bounds description of the land doesn't quite 8 coincide with what is actually in the contracts and that can be reformed, we believe, under the terms of the order 10 allows for non material changes in the contract to be made 11 adjusted. 12 With respect to the bins, the bins are not part --13 will not be sold. They are not part of the contract. 14 My understanding is that the cars are still on the 15 subject to question of ownership is something that will be 16 decided. We will only be selling them if what we own -- if 17 own it, and I'm not sure that we know how that will be 18 at this point. 19 MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, may I be heard? Albert 20 Berryman for Olam. 21 There are two vehicles that were discussed yesterday 22 I believe is what Mr. Pascuzzi and Mr. Lapping are As we sit here this morning those vehicles are still on the 2.3 24 asset purchase list. However, we have agreed to discuss

There is a concept over their ownership, that and SK.

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The

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Trustee has pointed out to us that he would not be able to
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   something that he doesn't own, and we acknowledge that
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   But I think people will agree as we sit here right now that
   issue is not resolved.
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 5
          MR. LAPPING: That's correct, your Honor.
                                                      The cars
 6
   listed but the ownership is uncertain.
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          THE COURT: All right.
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          MR. LAPPING: I think the only other objection that
   was to the sale itself, and I think that was also by the
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   Farming entities which I believe has now been resolved as
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   settlement is contingent on our approving the sale.
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          MR. PASCUZZI: Correct, your Honor.
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          THE COURT: All right. The objections by Salyer,
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   Mr. Salyer and related entities in regard to the actual sale,
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   those objections have been approved?
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          MR. LAPPING: I believe that's correct, your Honor.
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          THE COURT: Mr. Pascuzzi?
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          MR. PASCUZZI: Yes, Your Honor, contingent on approval
19
   the settlement.
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          THE COURT: All right.
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          MR. LAPPING:
                        I believe the only other objection
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   have that is a live one is the Morning Star objection.
23
   an objection that basically, as I understand it, is that
24
   are allegedly trade secrets that relate back to a dispute
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   had it's genesis it says in early 2006. There is no evidence
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submitted other than a representation that a complaint was in State Court.

We think that the objection is not well taken. As the Court has already been informed, Morning Star is a competitor these companies and would benefit from the liquidation and piecemeal of their equipment so that they are not in and its objection suggests that it does not identify any secrets. It's hard to envision what the trade secrets in the tomato business really could be, and we believe that the objection is not well taken.

THE COURT: All right.

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MS. OELSNER: Your Honor, Julie Oelsner on behalf of Morning Star.

We are not objecting to the sale as proposed today.

made a limited objection because there is litigation

State Court which is stayed by the operation of the filing of this case.

The representation that we would have preferred be piecemeal is totally irrelevant and untrue. We simply to put the parties on notice that due to this litigation, the allegations are there and we do believe trade secret documentation from Mr. [inaudible] as well as Morning Star its entities may be in possession of the Trustee. I asked Trustee this morning if there could be some process made to protect our alleged secrets that have been taken by a former

employee. 2 That is all that we are asking, your Honor, that both parties are put on notice that. Number one, we don't think 3 any of our trade secrets can be sold, and I don't think the 5 Trustee is saying that. And secondly, that should any of our 6 trade secrets, confidential information or personal be found by the Trustee or the buyer, that those are 8 and preserved, number one, as non assets to the estate and they are evidence in the litigation. 10 THE COURT: Ms. Oelsner, I thought I saw some language 11 the proposed sale order that dealt with your client's 12 Was I wrong? 13 MS. OELSNER: I haven't -- I didn't see that. 14 that the parties are -- that the buyer is required to protect 15 and keep the documents from the seller for seven years, books 16 and records for seven years. 17 THE COURT: I was looking at prior things this 18 I could have confused it. All right. 19 Well, let me ask this, Ms. Oeslner, what are you 2.0 for? 21 MS. OELSNER: Well, perhaps, your Honor, some 22 to the Trustee that they take some action to protect any of 2.3 evidence and our trade secrets. We don't want them 24 to a third party. 25 If the third party, the buyer obtains them, that they

can't be used, they can't be transmitted. They are not 2 and I don't think the Trustee actually intended to sell 3 something that they don't own. THE COURT: Well, I guess there -- I am guessing that 4 5 there is a dispute as to what it is. 6 MS. OELSNER: We have been barred from doing any discovery so we couldn't be more definitive in our limited 8 objection. 9 THE COURT: All right. 10 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, we don't have any budget to undertake some sort of search and rescue mission for whatever 11 12 data. We don't know what we are looking for, we don't know 13 where it would be, and I don't think there is any overt 14 to sell something that, you know, has been allegely secret 15 somehow. I'm just not sure that there is a real denoting 16 whatever concern this is other than what might exist under 17 that may or may not be applicable to this situation. 18 THE COURT: All right: 19 MR. BERRYMAN: Albert Berryman on behalf of the buyer. 20 We heard about this by communication between counsel 21 Morning Star and Mr. Gordon about five days ago, I think, and 22 that is all that we know, and we don't know anything about 2.3 evidentiary basis for this or anything. 24 THE COURT: My perception here -- my comment is that Ms. Oelsner wants to put the parties on notice. That

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been given and the parties are proceeding accordingly;
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   that they are -- I don't think there is anything in the
   order that is going to carve out a specific piece of
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   as that is an unknown. So the sale will proceed with that
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   notice being provided.
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          MR. OELSNER: Your Honor, I think that is a fair
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   representation.
          THE COURT: All right.
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          MR. LAPPING: Well, that, your Honor, I believe -- I
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   think -- I believe that covers all of the objections that
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   aware of.
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          THE COURT: All right. Let me ask, does anyone object
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   the sale or to the assumption and assignment of contracts
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   than as has been outlined by Mr. Lapping? All right.
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   no one. We will proceed with the objections having been
   resolved.
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          MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, in the process of finalizing
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   the documentation we came up with some additional contracts
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   got added to the final version of the asset purchase
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   and my associate, Mr. Colabianchi, will describe the
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   and the process that we have undertaken.
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          THE COURT: Was that the purpose of motion control
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   RL-23, in essence?
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          MR. COLABIANCHI: That's correct, your Honor.
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          THE COURT: All right.
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MR. COLABIANCHI: Marcus Colabianchi on behalf of the Trustee.

Your Honor, Exhibit A to document control number RL-23 a comprehensive list of the documents or the agreements, I should say, that the Trustee sought to assume and assign. It on the asset purchase agreement pared down list of the agreements that the Trustee seeks to assume and assign.

There were three contracts in particular that were after we filed the assumption motion, and those agreements are -- the counter parties are Len K Hart, [ph.], Van Glenn/Colusa Irrigation District. They all pertain to agreements. Yesterday we reached a stipulation with all counter parties. They support the assumption of the so those issues are resolved.

THE COURT: All right.

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MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, if I could I would like to proceed with the description of the due diligence and exigent circumstances by offer of proof.

THE COURT: All right. You may.

MR. LAPPING: We have in the courtroom today Mr. Glen Clark who is a Managing Director of Duff and Phelps, and with him is Leslie Nolan, [ph.], who is a Vice President of Duff Phelps. Both Mr. Clark and Ms. Nolan were instrumental on behalf of the parties to get a sale put together. I know they were engaged initially on March 23rd of 2009 and

from the beginning that the ability to sell this plant -that this plant had to be sold, these plants had to be sold
by the time that the tomatoes became ready to process, and
essentially -- we have been granted a little bit of a break
from good weather, but essentially everybody had July 1 as
date.

2.3

I think that both Mr. Clark and Ms. Nolan would that time was of the essence and that they engaged in a comprehensive and detailed listing of possible parties who might be in a position in the industry to make a purchase of this nature and of this magnitude. After the list was with senior management at both the banks and with the a list of some 47 companies were contacted for the sale. Of these, some 42 expressed interest in possibly doing a and ultimately 33 of these entities signed confidentiality non disclosure agreements that enabled them to delve down and take part in a review of the data room.

In addition, a data room was organized and created. is a web-based facility in which all of the critical that were either decided to be relevant or requested by were placed and available for notice and view by potential purchasers.

The site visits were conducted, meaning that 10 of entities came out and visited the Williams and the Lemoore sites, walked the facilities and were able to kick the tires,

figuratively, understanding what the nature of the process 2 going to be. 3 Finally we got down to the point where we had two who had expressed a strong interest and submitted bids. 4 5 them was West Cal which was a newly organized entity that was 6 interested in purchasing the Lemoore facility only but was unable to obtain financing for post-closing operations in 8 for the auction. The second of course is Olam which was the winning bidder. 10 We would submit that on the basis of these efforts by 11 these professionals who are experts in the food industry 12 the process of mergers and acquisitions of food companies, 13 the efforts comprised adequate exposure of these assets to 14 market, and that we have obtained solid evidence that we have 15 the best possible price under the circumstances. 16 THE COURT: All right. Does anyone object to taking 17 those statements by way of offer of proof? There is no one. 18 They will be admitted. 19 MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor. I also am aware 20 that in our proposed orders there is a request for a 21 good faith, and I believe your Honor has seen --22 THE COURT: The declaration of Stephen --2.3 MR. LAPPING: That's correct. 24 THE COURT: Stephen -- is it Stephen Smith? 25 MR. LAPPING: Stephen B. Smith, who is with us in the

courtroom today, has submitted a declaration in that regard. 2 THE COURT: I am prepared -- is there anyone 3 finding of a good faith purchaser? 4 I am prepared to make that finding based on the record 5 and declaration of Mr. Smith. 6 MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor. 7 Finally we come to the orders -- the proposed orders. 8 We have with us a number of red line copies and I think -- I believe these are red lined against the last proposed orders 10 that were submitted with the -- well, previously submitted in 11 the record. 12 THE COURT: Mr. Lapping, let me ask, I mean one of the 13 things -- I have reviewed the proposed order. I was given it 14 this morning and I looked at it briefly. One of the things 15 jumped out at me is this motion, the order is persuant to 16 RAL-21, and that was the motion that approved the bid 17 procedures; correct? I think that is what we --18 MR. LAPPING: Yes, your Honor, that's right. We are 19 going to change that from 22 to 21. 20 THE COURT: And the sale -- the 363(b) sale, and there 21 language in the proposed order that has this blanket 363(b) 22 language that I'm not comfortable with. 2.3 MR. LAPPING: Well, your Honor, you mentioned that 24 last hearing, and we then sent out a revised notice of the 25 to add all of those provisions so that there was no question

that --2 THE COURT: But I mean a 363 sale, a 363(b) and a 363 3 sale, if there is a particular lien or interest that is to having the assets be sold free and clear under one of the 4 5 enumerated items of the 363(f), I'm willing to consider that. 6 You can point me to the record. But this blanket language, I mean I have seen those orders before and the Court isn't --8 not a title company, if you will. Where I am going with this is even -- the language in 10 the order is that anybody that received notice under 11 Rule 2002, the assets are being sold free and clear of their 12 lien on interest. If there is a particular lien or interest 13 that the assets are being sold free and clear of, I need to 14 that identified. Service needs to be filed under Bankruptcy 15 Rule 7004 as they have a material interest in the 16 It's separate and apart from the notice requirement from a 17 363(b) sale. Do you follow me? 18 MR. LAPPING: Well, I think I do, your Honor. 19 there are a number of -- I mean all of the PACA leases, for 2.0 example, were selling free and clear of packing liens. We 21 resolving them by essentially paying them off. 22 free and clear of Chase liens. We are selling free and clear the R.F. MacDonald liens. 2.3 24 THE COURT: All right. Those are all by consent; 25 correct?

1 MR. LAPPING: They are by consent, your Honor, and 2 is part of 363(f). 3 THE COURT: And I go back to what I just said, that particularly identified liens or interest that the assets are 5 being sold free and clear of, and if you can point me to 6 the enumerated provisions under 363(f) such as consent, I am prepared to do that. But it's the broad, all-encompassing 8 language that I am not comfortable with. MR. LAPPING: Well, your Honor, we believe that we 10 the consent of all of those parties. The parties that you just identified? 11 THE COURT: 12 MR. LAPPING: And possibly others because we have 13 received no objections, and I think the buyer -- the buyer's 14 expectations, and I will let them address this, is that there 15 you know, the idea was to provide broad notice so that if 16 anybody asserted a particular interest or lien --17 THE COURT: Well, two things --MR. LAPPING: -- that they could come forward. 18 19 THE COURT: Two things. Motion control number RAL-21 2.0 did not, to my recollection, talk about this all-encompassing 21 lien-free sale language. The first time I saw it was in 22 control number 22 and that was -- there was an order denying 2.3 that motion being brought on shortened time. 24 MR. LAPPING: Well, your Honor, I understood you were 25 denying the motion for shortening time. I was not under -- I

did not realize you were --

THE COURT: Well, then, the motion is not before me today.

MR. LAPPING: Well, I thought we -- we scheduled it subject to providing notice, and which we did provide all 3,500. We blanketed -- all creditors received notice of both motions.

THE COURT: Well, let me hear from the buyers. I will share with you this has surfaced before. Mr. Levinson, this can't come as a surprise to you. The same issue came up in another case where if there is -- for a court to make a lien-free sale, in my opinion it needs to specifically a provision under 363(f) and their needs to be evidence And if you are doing a sale free and clear of a lien, it's an adversary proceeding as to that particular creditor's and notice needs to be provided by 7004.

It's different if you are just giving notice of a which you need to comply with 2002, but I will be surprised this comes as news to anyone today that this has not been pitched up, in my eyes, as some type of blanket wholesale lien-free sale motion.

MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, Albert Berryman on behalf the buyer.

This element of the sale of these assets is critical the buyer, and we added the APA agreement Section 5.8.2 that

the seller would obtain an order from the Court that these assets are being acquired free and clear of any liens or 2 interest of any party and --3 4 THE COURT: Where does the Court get the authority for 5 that if you haven't identified -- I mean just from a due 6 standpoint if a lien is not identified? MR. BERRYMAN: Well, if there is some unknown lien 7 8 out there who did not get notice of this, I don't think we say that they would be effected, but there was notice given 10 literally every creditor in this case that this agreement was 11 going to be submitted and a sale order was going to be 12 that would provide for the transfer of these assets free and 13 clear of all liens and interest, and this was a very 14 element, is a very important element to Olam. 15 MR. LAPPING: Could I have one moment, your Honor? 16 THE COURT: You may. 17 ---000---18 [Discussion off the record.] 19 ---000---20 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, I think the process that we 21 have engaged in has yielded a couple of things. One, we did 22 identify a number of parties who stepped forward and 2.3 and we have resolved their objections, and they have leins 24 they have essentially consented. 25 THE COURT: Then I am comfortable.

1 MR. LAPPING: We are fine. And then after that, I 2 the Court's position is reconcilable with the provisions of 3 agreements specifically in Section 5.8.1. 4 THE COURT: This is the asset purchase agreement? 5 MR. LAPPING: This is of the asset purchase agreement 6 which 5.8.1 is under a general section called Bankruptcy 7 Approval. The specific approval that we are seeking is in a 8 paragraph in the middle of that on the next page 17. scanning it, it's down in the middle. The sentence begins 10 the words, "The sale order contemplated hereby --11 THE COURT: I have it highlighted. "The sale order 12 contemplated --13 MR. LAPPING: It says "to the fullest extent allowable 14 under the Bankruptcy Code." So it's not beyond any -- you 15 this isn't -- if for some reason there is an unknown, you 16 somebody has asserted a lien or an unexpired security 17 or, you know, something that somehow didn't get addressed, 18 either it's allowed by the Bankruptcy Code or it isn't. 19 think, you know, what the Court is raising is probably 2.0 consistent with the language of the contract. 21 MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, Albert Berryman for the 22 I believe the Court has jurisdiction to obviously 2.3 the lien holders who are hereby consented and any other party 24 who would claim a lien who received notice of this sale 25 that their liens would be avoided --

1 THE COURT: Well, what is it --MR. BERRYMAN: -- if they did not object. 2 3 THE COURT: If there is a lien-free sale of an of a creditor, what is the proper mode of service? 4 5 MR. BERRYMAN: I believe that the sale notice under 6 Rule 2002 would be appropriate. Any party who received of this sale motion and did not object can be bound. 7 8 THE COURT: All right. Let's move on. I understand issue. Whether I agree is another question. 10 MR. LAPPING: Well, your Honor, in light of that, 11 we should indicate that the motion to approve the sale goes 12 forward under docket control number 21 and 22 because it 13 understanding that in response to the Court's concerns that 14 went out and renoticed motion number 22 so that we added 15 these additional parties. THE COURT: Well, let me share with you, I was 16 17 see how things were lining up, and inconsistent with that 18 statement is that when I denied the order shortening time 19 motion to assume the contract, that was renewed. 2.0 application for order shortening time was renewed. 21 it and I granted that order shortening time. I do not recall 22 subsequent request for an order shortening time on motion 2.3 control number RAL-23. 24 MR. LAPPING: That's correct, and that is because we

understood that the Court had set -- you know, our initial

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to shorten time was for last Friday,
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          THE COURT: And I denied both of those.
 3
          MR. LAPPING: Right, and we had understood that.
   only thing we talked about at this hearing was the sale
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   We didn't bring up the executory contract motion. We then
   reset -- with the Court's direction we continued that hearing
 6
   today's hearing, Thursday, June 25th, and as a result it
 8
   calendar we believe based on the Court's direction.
   failed to do was address with anybody the motion to assume
10
   contracts, which is why we only submitted one request for an
11
   order shortening time. It was our understanding that --
12
          THE COURT: All right.
13
          MR. LAPPING: -- in both cases that we can go to
14
   notice.
15
          THE COURT: I understand the lay of the land.
16
          MR. LAPPING: Okay. I quess, your Honor, we can go
17
   through the two orders, and I don't know, would you prefer
18
   you ask me questions on the changes or --
19
          THE COURT: Well, I know that -- let's go ahead on --
20
          MR. LAPPING: Well, okay.
21
          THE COURT: -- the sale order.
22
          MR. LAPPING: The sale order. I am taking the sale
23
   first. Obviously we are adding the name of the purchaser.
24
   are filling out the definition of creditors and interested
25
   parties. We are indicating specifically that there was a
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bidding, an auction at our offices yesterday, June 24th. 2 is in paragraph 8. In paragraph 9 we have filled out the concept of 3 4 due diligence and the exigent circumstances. 5 On paragraph 11 a finding that -- or an order to the affect that the sale outside of a plan of reorganization is 6 7 called for here. New paragraph 13. This is the modification that --8 minor modification provision for the APA. Paragraph 16 is new. Again, this is I think answered 10 the offer of proof. It has to do with the consideration 11 12 adequate. 13 Paragraph 17 is simply a build-out on the notion 14 Chapter 11 Trustee has full authority. 15 Those were all findings. I apologize, I think I said order, but findings. 16 17 Then new paragraph 24. This is a reference to not 18 assuming successor liability, which I believe is consistent 19 California law that so long as a party does not assume 20 liabilities, they are not being assumed. 21 Paragraph 27 is a waiver of the ten-day stay under 22 Bankruptcy 6004(h), 6006(d). I should add, however, that 23 notwithstanding that, it is a condition of the closing that order become final, i.e., the ten-day --24 25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. LAPPING: -- appeal period have lapsed. I don't to create the impression that our timing has somehow changed. 3 Paragraph 28 I think is again an authority point and that there will not be later, you know, later efforts to 4 5 the agreement. 6 Paragraph 29 is again a build-out of the notion are authorized or the Trustee, rather, is authorized to documents. 8 9 Paragraph 31 are changes, potential changes in the 10 timing if the parties so agree. 11 And paragraph 32 I think is an explanation or an 12 abundance of caution type of provision related to excluded 13 assets. 14 THE COURT: Well, this is what I am inclined to do: I want to look at that issue. I am inclined to take a recess 15 resume at 1:00 o'clock. I want to take a look at a couple of 16 17 issues on the lien sale assets. 18 MR. LAPPING: That's fine, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: All right. 20 MR. LAPPING: And then paragraph 33 is a recital that 21 will help us in connection with --22 THE COURT: The rest of it I am satisfied with. 23 reviewed it. But that is something that I want to take a 24 at, so let me do that, and we will resume at 1:00 o'clock. 25 MR. LAPPING: Do you want me to address the assignment

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order at all?
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          THE COURT: I have taken a look at that and that I
   have a problem with.
 3
          MR. LAPPING: Okay. We will change the number of
 4
 5
   your Honor.
 6
          THE COURT: Very well. All right. We will resume at
 7
   1:00 o'clock.
          MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor.
 8
 9
          MR. BERRYMAN: Thank you, your Honor.
10
                               ---000---
11
                            [Lunch recess.]
12
                               ---000---
13
          THE COURT: Good afternoon and please be seated.
14
          Mr. Lapping, we were engaged in a discussion of the
   status of sale and whether it's free and clear of all liens
15
16
   claims or not.
17
          MR. LAPPING: Yes, your Honor. Our thoughts after
18
   Honor's comments are a couple: One is that we did go out on
19
   notice of the sale being free and clear to a large population
20
   creditors and parties in interest that we could identify
21
   on as many names as we could pull together from the
22
   and I do know that we got a lot of calls from former
2.3
   used to have some sort of relationship and it was expired and
24
   longer had a relationship. So we believe it was pretty
25
          We think that there are two ways to look at it, both
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which would lead to the approval of the order as written.

is that the order really only binds the parties who got

3 and so, you know, if a party in interest had a claim that we

4 didn't identify for some reason as being a particular

5 that they had notice. So to the extent that a party has an

6 interest or secret lien that we didn't give notice to, then

there is an argument that they might have the ability to

8 that down the road.

However, I would add yet another point of view and is the point of the view of the secured lenders in this case, and that is that if they were conducting a foreclosure sale selling all of these assets pursuant to an Article 9 which this is very analogous to, they have now given notice only to all contractors on that list but they have given publication very broadly in the USA Today I think as well the Fresno Bee and the Sacramento Bee.

So you know, we believe that the notice and due rights of all parties have been carefully observed. Indeed final step we gave notice to the 3,500 plus creditors on the list six days ago, six days before this hearing, which is not lot but in the scope of this particular hearing and given the number of parties who have shown up, we think that, you know, have given a lot of good notice.

THE COURT: Mr. Lapping, did that mass mail out this most recent motion along with the notice?

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1
          MR. LAPPING: The motion itself?
 2
          THE COURT: Yes.
 3
          MR. LAPPING: No, your Honor. It gave a three-page
   description, I believe, of the notice including recitation of
 5
   all of the --
 6
          THE COURT: I thought I saw on the proof of service
   the motion itself was filed -- excuse me -- was served.
 8
          MR. LAPPING: We may have served that on a different
   list, your Honor. I am fairly confident we didn't serve the
   entire motion on the 3,500 broader creditor list.
10
11
          MR. COLABIANCHI: Your Honor, Marcus Colabianchi on
12
   behalf of the Trustee.
13
          THE COURT: I am looking at a proof of service that
14
   served June 17th and it's 20 pages.
15
          MR. COLABIANCHI: That's right, your Honor, we did
16
   provide -- we did serve not only the OSC application but the
17
   underlying motion, the sale motion or Rule 22 on all the --
          THE COURT: The ones that are limited to the special
18
19
   notice request or was that served on everyone?
20
          MR. COLABIANCHI: That was served on a total of 520
21
   parties, your Honor, by U.S. Mail first class.
22
          THE COURT: And where is the notice that was served on
23
   everyone? I am looking at docket control number 22.
24
          MR. COLABIANCHI: That I believe, your Honor, is
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number 383, and it relates to the notice -- the amended

of auction and sale, and that is docket number 381. 2 THE COURT: Well, see, that doesn't --3 MR. COLABIANCHI: And in that amended -- in that notice, your Honor, we did specify on page 2 of the sale 5 and I quote, "The statutory basis for the sale and the sale 6 motion is 11 USC Section 363, including but not limited to 7 following subsections: (b), (d), (f), (h), (i), (j), (k), 8 and (m)." 9 THE COURT: But it doesn't say that you are selling it 10 free and clear of everyone's interest. It just references 11 code sections. Well, hold on. Let me take a look at this. 12 Is there anywhere in this notice that says you are 13 selling the assets free and clear of the liens? 14 MR. LAPPING: We are not finding it, your Honor, as 15 You know, there is a bold --16 THE COURT: Let me share with you, when I took the 17 I was trying to come up with a solution to an issue here, and 18 mean there is two things that I was concerned about. 19 Court making a finding under 363(f) to sell free and clear of 20 liens, and my thought was you could by way of offer of 21 have the Trustee come up and say other than the creditors 22 have consented to the sale, any other third party, and the 23 secured lender, any other third party that received notice of 24 this lien-free sale, if they are claiming a lien, it's in 25 dispute. Do you understand? That would then give the

least a basis for finding to the extent there is any other out there that is in dispute.

2.3

As far as notice, I still am of the opinion that if are going to do a lien-free sale, that it's prudent to do so under Bankruptcy Rule 7004. Under the circumstances of this case, I feel I can — to the extent creditors have received notice of a lien-free sale, I can approve it with the 2002 notice given under limited — you know, this is not the general position but under these circumstances, I can. But I don't see anywhere in this notice that it says this is to be a lien-free sale.

MR. LAPPING: Well, your Honor, it does so only by inference.

THE COURT: All right. Well, let me ask Mr. Gordon -Mr. Berryman, I mean. I am trying to get from point A to
point B. I will note that some 500 creditors received the
motion. It does indicate a lien-free sale, and I am prepared
the Trustee puts on evidence that to the extent any of those
creditors assert an interest, a lien in the property, it's
disputed free and clear of those liens.

My comment is I am sure your clients have done the requisite due diligence, and this is a sale that any claim pop up in that due diligence period. But you know, for some other creditors of the estate that really haven't been that this is a lien-free sale, I am not prepared just to

randomly put that in the order.

MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, I don't have any resolution other than to suggest that any creditor who did receive and did not object to a lien-free sale is going to be bound the order.

THE COURT: I'm saying that I think -- I mean, again, it's not an ideal situation, but I think that what we could today based on one, the Trustee offering testimony to the other than the creditors that have consented, if anyone else that has received notice of the lien-free sale asserted a it would be in dispute, is not aware of any other liens that they have, and the ones that have received the motion and the notice, it does in those documents explain that it's a lien-sale.

But this notice that went out to the general matrix, I don't see language in there that indicates a lien-free sale.

MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, I don't know about -- I understand this was an amended notice, and if there was a previous notice that was served on the greater creditor body, can we deem that this amended notice just simply hearing?

THE COURT: That initial notice -- you can correct

I am wrong, but that initially notice was silent in regards

any lien-free sale.

MR. LAPPING: I believe your Honor pointed out that

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was no reference to 363(f), and from memory I believe that
 2
   is correct. The Trustee could indeed testify that we have
 3
   a comprehensive listing of what we believed were the parties
   with interests; and that indeed if anyone stepped forward at
 4
 5
   this point, that that would be a disputed interest.
 6
          MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, if I could have about five
   minutes to confer with our clients?
          THE COURT: That would be fine. Do you want to take a
 8
   brief recess?
10
          MR. BERRYMAN:
                         Please.
11
          THE COURT: Is five minutes a sufficient amount of
12
          MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, I would ask for ten.
13
          THE COURT: Very well. Just let the Deputy Court
14
   know when you are ready to go forward.
15
                               ---000---
16
                            [Brief recess.]
17
                               ---000---
18
          THE COURT: Please remain seated. All right.
19
   Mr. Lapping?
20
          MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, counsel with sharper eyes
21
   mine have looked at this order again -- I'm sorry -- at the
22
   amended notice and have drawn our attention there to a
2.3
   that has the reference to Section 363, and then one, two,
24
   the fourth paragraph after that begins with all bold --
25
          THE COURT: Correct.
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1 MR. LAPPING: -- and ends with the phrase, "--2 the transfer of the property free and clear of interests and 3 encumbrances." And this is going out to 3,800 parties that been identified as having potential interests in or potential 5 claims. 6 THE COURT: Well, I will comment that the eyes that 7 looked at this are better than yours and mine because I did 8 see it either. MR. LAPPING: Actually, your Honor, I remember 10 it now, and my memberly is short as well. 11 THE COURT: All right. I have looked at the language. 12 That notice did go out to all creditors listed on the matrix. 13 It is close to the language that I was looking for, not 14 reference to a number of code sections. 15 I am prepared to have you proceed either by way of 16 of proof or put the Trustee on, but what I think is 17 is evidence to the extent any other claim holder or creditor 18 other than those that are consenting to the sale and liens 19 by the bank consenting to the sale, that any other claim 20 the assets would be in dispute.

MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, I think I would offer that could put on evidence if not directly from the Trustee, from others in the courtroom, including the Duff Phelps people who helped set up the data room, that there was a comprehensive listing of everybody who had ever filed a UCC claim, who had

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24

25

ever showed up on any of the title records that related to 2 of the real property, there was a comprehensive effort to 3 identify creditors and any party --4 THE COURT: And I am assuming that. Although it's not 5 stated here, but I think the presumption here is that the 6 body of creditors that simply received this notice, you are aware of any claim that they have, any secured claim that 8 have? 9 MR. LAPPING: That's correct, your Honor. 10 THE COURT: And accordingly it would be disputed is 11 I would expect the position to be. 12 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, the Trustee is over there 13 nodding in agreement to your statement. 14 THE COURT: Well, again, unless someone wants to it will be done by offer of proof. If you want to put Mr. 15 16 up, have him sworn in and solicit that testimony. I'm 17 leave that up to you. 18 MR. LAPPING: I would go by offer of proof, your 19 THE COURT: All right. Does anyone object to the 20 by way of offer of proof in so much as advising or indicating 21 that any creditor that has not consented to the sale, that 22 lien that would be asserted by those third parties is in dispute? 23 24 MR. BERRYMAN: No objection by Olam, your Honor. 25 THE COURT: All right. By the silence I am assuming

may proceed by offer of proof. 2 MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor. Beyond that, 3 are some clean-up items that we --4 THE COURT: I think you will need to present --5 MR. LAPPING: Oh, your Honor, I do make this offer of 6 proof: That anybody who would at this point show up and any kind of an interest or a lien on the property, that the 8 Trustee would assert and take the position that that lien was disputed. 10 THE COURT: Other than those consenting to the sale? 11 MR. LAPPING: Other than those consenting to the sale. 12 THE COURT: All right. It is accepted and admitted. 13 MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor. 14 THE COURT: All right. MR. LAPPING: Counsel for the California Tomato 15 16 Association has pointed out that in our order assigning 17 executory contracts that we are purporting to assign expired 18 leases. I'm sure we meant to say unexpired leases, and we 19 correct that. 20 Counsel for the Salyer entities, Mr. Pascuzzi, has 21 approached the parties in interest and has requested that the 22 order contain a provision to the effect or the following provision which everybody, I understand, is in agreement 2.3 "The Court reserves jurisdiction to 24 25 resolve any dispute between the Trustee,

1 the buyer, and any other party in 2 interest over whether certain vehicles 3 and bins listed on Exhibit 1.6 to the 4 purchase agreements are property of the 5 debtors, and this sale order does not 6 authorize the sale of any property that 7 is not property of the debtors." 8 THE COURT: All right. 9 MR. LAPPING: I understand that Odenberg Leasing may 10 amend the contract or lease numbers applicable to their 11 contracts or leases. 12 MS. PARKINSON: That's correct. 13 MR. LAPPING: Okay. And we'll have that amendment. 14 I think beyond that we just need to confirm that the order as amended both on the record here today and in the red 15 16 line version submitted to the Court and to the parties 17 with the terms of the APA in the view of the buyer. 18 MR. BERRYMAN: Agreed, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: All right. 2.0 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, I think that is all that we 21 If the Court is inclined to approve these orders, then, 22 amended --MR. FREDERICKS: Your Honor, John Fredericks of 2.3 24 and Strawn on behalf of the Trustee. 25 One other comment on the order. I think we have

raised this so it's more by way of clarification, but Chase 2 Equipment Finance has, as we have discussed earlier, 3 that we attach the agreement between the Trustee, the banks and Chase to the order, and we will be making a 4 5 other revisions to the order that clarify that the Trustee 6 be performing in accordance with the agreement that is being 7 attached. 8 THE COURT: All right. 9 MR. McQUAID: Your Honor, Michael McQuaid on behalf of 10 R.F. MacDonald. 11 Earlier Mr. Lapping recited that the stipulation had 12 reached with MacDonald, and I just wanted to make sure that 13 stipulated cure amount of \$196,135 and the stipulation of 14 will be paid on or before closing is included in the order. 15 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, we have a provision in there 16 that all funds that are to be paid at close, that we actually 17 have a 15 day window to effectuate that. They are being paid 18 out of an escrow, and we want to make sure that we don't --19 we leave ourselves a little bit of room in the event that 20 payment is somehow overlooked but that was intended to be 21 Our intent is to pay everything at closing out of escrow. 22 you know, we built in some space for errors and effectuating 2.3 that. 24 THE COURT: All right. 25 MR. GINTER: Dale Ginter on behalf of the Committee.

1 At paragraph 28, the last sentence of the order, I with Mr. Spiotto earlier, that purports to cut off any rights 2 challenge the bank's claim in the final cash collateral 3 The Committee has for a period of time preserved its right to 4 5 challenge the bank's unsecured claim, and we are going to 6 that sentence to provide that subject to the final cash collateral order, and the purpose of that is to resolve any 8 conflicts between the two and to preserve the Committee's as contained in the final cash collateral order. MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, we found a two-word 10 11 that we think would clarify something. In paragraph 32 of 12 red line order at line 24 on page 8, the term "excluded 13 is included in that paragraph. I think that it should add 14 two words "as defined" between the word "assets" capitalized, and the phrase "in the purchase agreement" because I don't 15 16 there is any reference in this order to capital terms 17 same meaning that they have in the asset agreement, but I 18 believe that is the intent of this provision. The excluded assets as defined in the APA are not being transferred. 19 20 THE COURT: Correct. 21 MR. BERRYMAN: But the term excluded assets is not 22 defined anywhere else in the order. 2.3 MR. LAPPING: Let me confer, your Honor. 24 /// 25 ///

1	000
2	[Discussion off the record.]
3	00
4	MR. LAPPING: Okay. We have that change, your Honor.
5	think we are submitting, your Honor.
6	THE COURT: All right. It seems to me that the
7	thing to do, there is going I am going to put some
8	and conclusions on the record.
9	What is the contemplated process for circulating an
10	and then submitting it to the Court?
11	MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, we plan to try to get
12	signatures from the Creditor's Committee. We will be at
13	offices revising the order, the banks. Who else? Chase, and
14	the buyer and Odenberg.
15	THE COURT: All right. Does anyone else wish to
16	on the form of the order?
17	MR. McQUAID: Your Honor, Mike McQuaid.
18	As long as the stipulation that was announced on the
19	record is contained in the order, I don't need to sign off on
20	it.
21	MR. LAPPING: It is, your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Well, then, all right. So we won't put
23	Mr. McQuaid on there as required to sign off.
24	MR. WISOTZKEY: Sam Wisotzkey on behalf of General
25	I think we should sign off on the assignment order as

well. 2 That is fine with us. MR. LAPPING: THE COURT: Well, one of the things that can be done 3 we can continue the hearing to tomorrow at 10:00 and you can 5 present the order at that time. 6 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, I would love to do that that counsel -- I think we would like to get -- we are on a 8 tight schedule. If we can get this order entered today, to you and entered today, we could put the schedule on the 10 footing it needs to because there are -- you know, after the 11 order is entered and we have now commenced the process to 12 there are a ton of things that need to be done, things that 13 to be bought and applied to the process to get going. 14 THE COURT: Well, are you going to get the sufficient 15 parties to sign off on the orders to have it filed today? 16 MR. LAPPING: Yes, your Honor, I am confident that we 17 will get everybody to sign off on it before we send it to 18 THE COURT: All right. 19 MR. PASCUZZI: Your Honor, Paul Pascuzzi. 2.0 I don't need to sign off on the order. I just would 21 it circulated to us so that I can look at it. 22 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, we will get a signature from Mr. Pascuzzi as well. 2.3 24 THE COURT: All right. Let's then specifically again 25 identify who is it that is going to --

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1
          Nancy, do we have the parties who are going to sign
 2
   on the order?
 3
          THE CLERK: If they could repeat who they are.
 4
          THE COURT: Those parties who are going to sign off on
 5
   the order?
 6
          MR. LAPPING: They are the buyer --
 7
          THE CLERK: Names, please.
 8
          MR. LAPPING: Oh, sorry. You mean --
 9
          THE CLERK: Yes, who is going to be signing off.
10
          MR. BERRYMAN: Albert Berryman, Baker, Manock and
11
   for Olam West Coast, Inc., and Olam Tomato Processors.
12
          MR. PASCUZZI: Paul Pascuzzi for the Salyer entities.
13
          MR. GARDNER: Brent Gardner, Lewis and Roca, for
14
          MR. GINTER: Dale Ginter, Downey Brand, for the
15
   Committee.
16
          MR. LEVINSON: Mark Levinson, Orick, Herring and
17
   Sutclisse for the secured lenders.
18
          MS. PARKINSON: Donna Parkinson for Odenberg.
19
          MR. WISOTZKEY: Samuel Wisotzkey, Kohner, Mann and
2.0
   for General Mills.
21
          MR. LAPPING: No one gets to leave, your Honor, until
22
   they sign.
2.3
          MR. BERRYMAN: Your Honor, I would like to amend ours.
24
   Albert Berryman for Olam Entities, and if I am not
25 some reason, Mr. Gordon of the McDonough firm --
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1
          THE COURT: Either yourself or Mark Gordon?
 2
          MR. BERRYMAN: Correct. Thank you.
 3
          MR. LAPPING: That would be it, your Honor.
 4
          THE COURT: All right. And the timeline is -- when do
 5
   the parties expect to have it submitted?
 6
          MR. LAPPING: We think by 3:30.
 7
          THE COURT: Well, I'll tell you what, I mean I will be
8
   checking and I mean it will in likelihood be signed within --
   depends on when it's in but sometime within -- well, it
10
   if it's lodged today it will be signed today. Let's put it
11
   way.
12
          MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor. That is fairly
13
   important for the schedule, and we appreciate your
14
   us.
15
           The last thing that we had on the agenda, I
16
   is the West Lake Farms motion for an order to compel
17
   or rejection, and I believe that is mute given that their
   contract will be assumed.
18
19
          THE COURT: All right.
20
          MR. ROLDAN: Your Honor, Vincent Roldan, DLA Piper,
21
   counsel to West Lake on the phone.
22
          That's correct, your Honor. It sounds like our motion
2.3
   compel is muted by the sale motions and assumption
24
   will withdraw our motion to compel without prejudice.
25
          THE COURT: All right. So calendar items 4 and
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item 3, those motions are withdrawn by the moving party. All right. So the compromise motion has been 2 3 the sale motion and the assumption motion have been approved, and again just so that there is clarity, the sale motion is 4 5 approved under motion control number RAL-21, and that was the 6 amended notice that went out under that motion number; is 7 correct? MR. LAPPING: Let me look. Yes, your Honor, it looks 8 like it went out under 21 as you said. 10 THE COURT: I think what happened is motion control 11 number 22 was not on calendar today. I mean the way that I 12 summing it up is that you went back and did an amended notice 13 motion control number 21, and that's -- the certificate or 14 notice of filing of the amended notice was filed on June 15 but that is the amended notice that you were talking about 16 before; correct? 17 MR. LAPPING: Yes, it is, your Honor. We are estopped 18 from saying anything else. We have said 21 and that is 19 is. 20 THE COURT: All right. I do think it appropriate just 21 under the circumstances to put some findings and 22 the record. These will apply equally to the motion to 23 the compromise which I have already partially indicated. 24 compromise was a lynchpin to the sale, and also to the sale

motion RAL-21 and to the motion to assume the contracts,

25

executory contracts which is RAL-23.

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The Court's findings and conclusions are as follows:

S and K Foods, LP, separately it may be referred to as SK Foods and RHM Industrial Specialty Foods, Inc., which separately referred to as RHM, each filed separate voluntary Chapter 11 proceedings on May 7th, 2009. SK Foods and RHM be collectively referred to as "debtors".

Involuntary petitions were filed against the debtors May 5th, 2009, two days prior to the voluntary petitions. voluntary and involuntary petitions have been consolidated persuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015.

At all times relevant the debtors have been engaged in processing and packaging tomatoes and other perishable agricultural products at two processing plants located in Northern California.

The debtors' corporate headquarters are maintained in Monterey, California.

At the time the debtor filed the respective Chapter 11 cases each debtor filed a motion for appointment of a Accordingly and without opposition Bradley Sharp was as Chapter 11 Trustee in each of the debtors' cases on May 2009.

At this point in my findings and conclusions I may "debtors" or "trustee" interchangeably, whichever is most appropriate.

The Creditor Committee was appointed in this case on May 19th, 2009, and has retained counsel, and the Committee been active in this case since its appointment.

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The debtors own two major processing and packaging plants. SK Foods owns a plant in Lemoore, California, and RHM owns a plant in Williams, California. Both plants were are being operated by SK Foods.

As tomatoes are seasonal, the debtors business cycle also seasonal. Each May and June the debtors expend efforts to prepare for the upcoming tomato packing season. tomato packing season begins on or about July 1 and typically lasts through September. Based on the increased volume of as well as the increase in temporary -- excuse me -- of temporary workers during this period, the debtors' increase dramatically. As a result, debtors' ability to during the packing season is dependent on the debtors having financing available.

As of the petition date the debtors were obligated to syndicate of lenders on a revolving credit line, a temporary access loan and a term loan, and hereafter those parties or those secured creditors will be referred to as the Salyer Credit Lenders. The amount as of the petition date owing Senior Credit Lenders is in excess of 192 million dollar. senior credit lenders were secured -- were and are secured by substantially all of the real and personal property assets of

the debtors.

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Since filing, the debtors and the trustee have been using the senior credit lenders' cash collateral persuant order of this court. In consideration for the use of cash collateral, the secured — the senior credit lenders have granted a replacement lien on post-petition assets. The trustee's authority to use cash collateral to operate the businesses expires on June 28th, 2009.

The Trustee currently does not have the financing to operations through the upcoming tomato packing season which begins in less than a week from today.

At all relevant times the debtors' objectives in the filing of this Chapter 11 case was to facilitate a sale of businesses as a going concern prior to the July 1 tomato season. To that end, the debtors obtained a crude bidding procedure for an auction sale which was conducted yesterday, June 24th, 2009. Persuant to the bidding procedures order, today's hearing was for the Trustee to obtain court yesterday's sale to the successful bidder.

If the Court does not approve this sale, the Trustee not be able to operate the business passed June 28th, and will result in their closure and ultimately a piecemeal liquidation of the estate's assets. Such a piecemeal liquidation will result in significantly less return to creditors in the estate and the estate, Section 363 of the

Bankruptcy Code allows in relevant part for a sale outside of ordinary course. A sale under Section 363(b) of all of the debtors' assets can be approved where the Court exceptional circumstances. Specifically where a debtors' are a going concern are in essence perishable or in eminent danger that there will be a substantial depreciation or deterioration in value absent the approval of a sale as substantially all of the assets, the Court has the discretion approve such a sale.

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The Court finds that such cause exists today for approving a sale of substantially all of the estate's assets outside of a Chapter 11 plan. In so finding, the most consideration to the Court is whether the assets are being — whether the assets being sold are, in essense, perishable or will decrease in value if the sale does not go forward. If Court does not approve the sale, the Trustee will not have financial ability to continue operation, as I have said, June 28, which will result in the closure, substantial loss employment, piecemeal liquidation and a dramatic depreciation and deterioration in the value of the estate's assets.

As the assets have been sold in an auction setting adequate advertisement, the Court finds the Trustee is fair value for assets, and that the sale is in the best of the creditors and the estates. Accordingly the sale is approved under Section 363(b).

Turning now to sale of assets free and clear of the Court finds that the sale motion sufficiently and noticed parties for a sale free and clear of liens and encumbrances of the parties receiving notice of this motion. Ideally any party that asserts an interest in an asset that to be sold free and clear of liens should be noticed persuant Bankruptcy Rule 7004. However, the Court does find that all creditors did receive notice of the Trustee's intent to sell assets free and clear of leins, and that such notice was provided persuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002.

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Specifically, the amended notice that Mr. Lapping referred to and the language that he pointed out does comfort the Court that all creditors listed on the general matrix of this case were apprised that the sale was going to be free clear of liens. The Court finds in this particular case that notice given was reasonably calculated under the to apprise interested parties of the Trustee's request to assets free and clear of liens, and accordingly the notice is sufficient.

I just look to In Re: Mulane versus Hanover Bank, 339

306. Also In Re: Espinosa, 545, Fed 3d, 1113.

The Court finds that the Trustee has offered evidence way of offer of proof that any parties other than the parties consenting to the sale free and clear of liens, that any lien being asserted against those parties that have received

notice is in dispute and that the Trustee believes does not 2 exist. Accordingly, the Court finds that the sale is free and 3 clear of liens persuant to Section 3663(f)4 as to those 5 creditors that have not consented to the sale but have 6 notice; and that in regards to the secured creditors and creditors that have consented to the sale, the sale is free 8 clear of liens and interests persuant to Section 363(f)21. 9 All right. Mr. Lapping and Mr. Coleman, any 10 findings that the parties are requesting at this point? 11 MR. LAPPING: Not other than as stated in the written 12 formal order that we have submitted. 13 THE COURT: All right. Anything else, Mr. Coleman? 14 MR. COLEMAN: No, your Honor. 15 THE COURT: All right. Let me ask, do the parties 16 want -- I will look for the order to the Court. Do the 17 want to continue this hearing to a date in the future if 18 is a glitch? I mean if I sign the order, the hearing simply will be removed from calendar. 19 2.0 MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, Richard Lapping. 21 Why don't we set something six days out. 22 THE COURT: Well, I was thinking either Friday or 2.3 so that if the parties can't agree upon something, it's going 24 to --25 MR. LAPPING: That depends on what you mean by

your Honor. 2 THE COURT: Well, let me -- I understand it needs to reviewed by a number of parties, and I was either going to 3 continue this hearing to 10:00 o'clock tomorrow or 10:00 4 5 on Monday so that if something happens and they need to, you 6 know, present their issue to the Court, that you have it on calendar; and that if it is signed, it would just be removed. 8 That is up to the parties. MR. LAPPING: Your Honor, 10:00 o'clock tomorrow would ideal. 10 11 THE COURT: All right. 12 MR. BERRYMAN: That would be ideal for us as well, 13 Honor. 14 THE COURT: All right. I will then continue the 15 to 10:00 o'clock tomorrow. If the order -- and that is the 16 hearing -- I am going to continue both the sale hearing and 17 hearing on approval of compromise. If the sale motion is 18 before, then so be it. I'll simply conclude the hearing. Ιf 19 not, I'll be here to address the issues if they arise. And 20 sign the sale order and no one is here for the motion on 21 approval of the compromise, I'll simply note that it's been 22 granted and the moving parties are to submit an order. how it stands now. 2.3 24 MR. LAPPING: Thank you, your Honor. 25 THE COURT: All right. Any other order of business at

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this point? All right.
 1
 2
          MR. COLEMAN: I don't believe so.
 3
          THE COURT: All right. I know that it's been a
   meritorious process. I know that people have worked hard,
   commend people in as much progress as you have, and I say
 5
   luck to you all.
 6
 7
                               ---000---
 8
                   [Whereupon proceedings concluded.]
 9
                               ---000---
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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO I, Patricia A. Hernandez, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I reported the hearing in shorthand writing; and that I thereafter caused my shorthand writing to be transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said hearing or in any attorney for any of the parties to said hearing, or in any way interested in the outcome of said hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of July, 2009. Patricia A. Hernandez Certified Shorthand License Number 6875

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